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CIA: The Visible Threads Tied Together

CIA: THE INSIDE STORY, by Andrew Tully (Morrow, 276 pages, \$4.50).

Reviewed by Percy Wood

The wings of the central intelligence agency have been clipped since the rout of its Cuban adventure, says the author of this rather interesting evaluation, and henceforth the mysterious men who staff it will no longer be free wheelers playing around with foreign policy.

Probably as much as currently can be learned about activities of the super-secret CIA has been assembled in this book, and tho it is useful to have it in one package, there isn't a great deal of information that hasn't already been made known to newspaper and magazine readers.

We still don't know the agency's manpower, altho Andrew Tully is inclined to accept an estimate of 10,000, or how much



President Kennedy with John A. McCone (right), new director of the central intelligence agency, and Allen Dulles, former director. From "CIA: The Inside Story."

money it spends. The New York Times has said the figure may be as high as 1 billion dollars a year. Because of the unique status the CIA has in the government, its director has—heretofore, at least—been able to write a multimillion dollar check "without," Tully writes, "explaining what he wants it for except in general terms to the President and a selected few."

What has the CIA done with these millions and its "ivy league" staff [the author says its upper echelons are largely from eastern universities]? Tully holds that perhaps its greatest triumph was staging the secret U-2 flights over the Soviet Union for nearly four years, bringing back "planetoads" of intelligence—photographs and radio words and radar signals on the tapes of recording machines.

That espionage was exposed, of course, after the capture of the U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers, in 1960.

The Cuban fiasco was the agency's low point, and in his detailed chapter on that awful mess Tully doesn't spare Allen Dulles, then CIA director, or anyone else connected with the enterprise. It is made incomprehensible that an intelligence expert of Dulles' experience could have been so taken in by faulty reports on how eager Cubans were to help overthrow Castro.

How President Kennedy weakened the original CIA plan for the invasion and his inaction at a vital moment also are told.

The book is not a whitewash of central intelligence. The author is an ex-war correspondent.

Percy Wood of The Tribune staff served with the office of strategic services, predecessor agency of the CIA, during World War II.